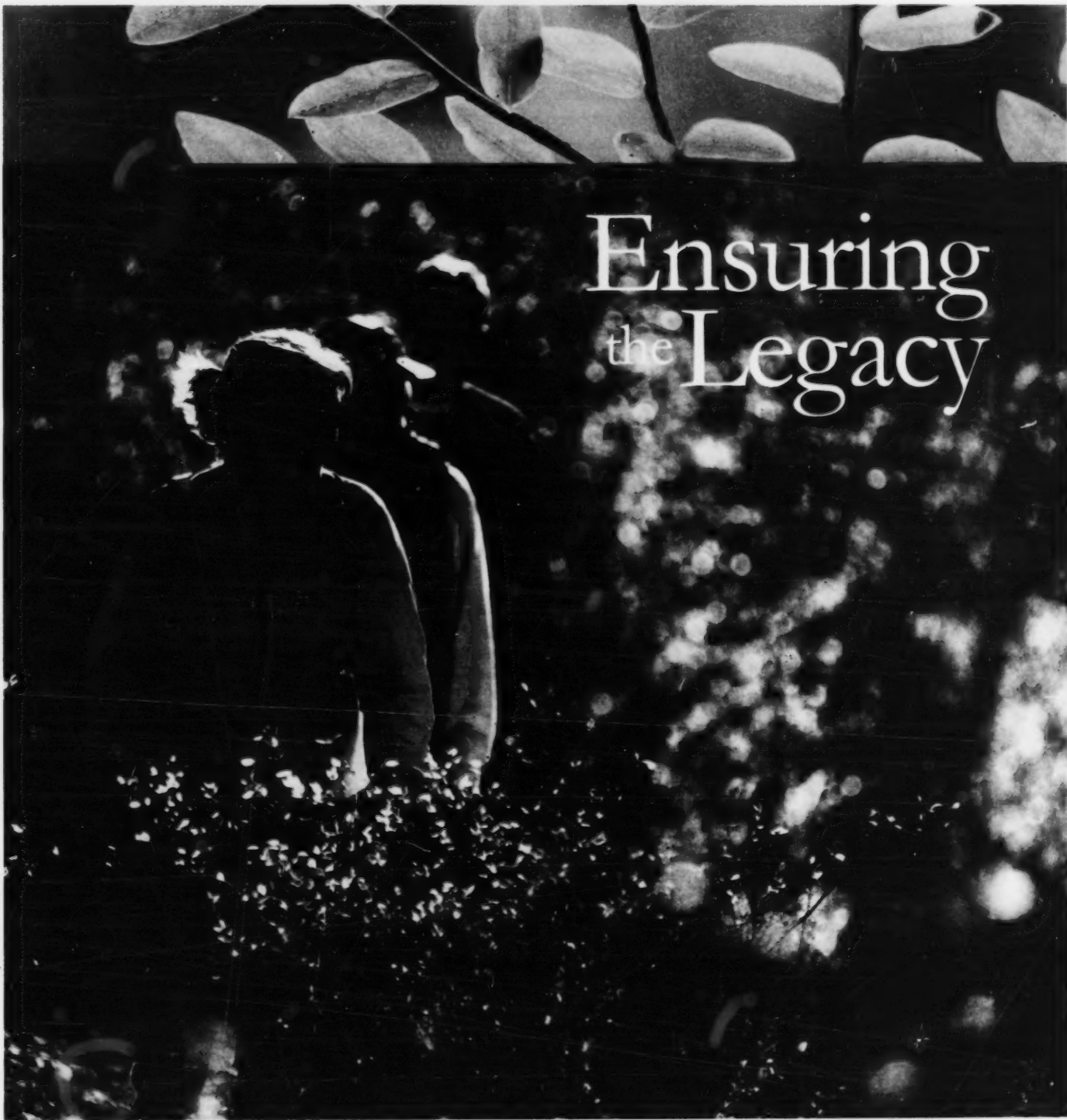




Saskatchewan
Environment

Provincial Parks Future Directions



Ensuring
the Legacy

Minister's Message



2006 is the 75th anniversary of the provincial parks system in Saskatchewan. It is a milestone that provides us an opportunity to celebrate the wisdom of those who created this wonderful legacy. But it also serves as a reminder that we must work hard to preserve this legacy for future generations.

Ensuring the Legacy: Provincial Parks Future Directions is a significant step forward as we continue to work together to shape the future of our provincial parks system.

I would like to thank our visitors, cottagers, commercial lessees, community representatives and members of the public for freely providing us with their opinions about and their aspirations for our provincial parks system. We hope you will continue to share your ideas with us.

I invite you to visit a provincial park this summer to help as we all celebrate the 75th anniversary and to experience firsthand the beauty and the excitement of our provincial parks.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John T. Nilson".

John T. Nilson, Q.C.
Minister
Saskatchewan Environment

Background

The Provincial Parks System

Park Use

Public Opinion

Framework for the Future

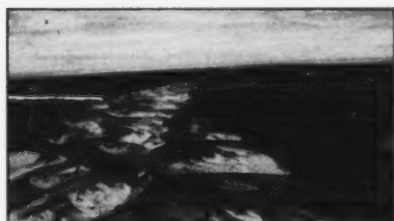
Park Funding in 2006-07

Next Steps

Background



A tour of Fort Carlton



Athabasca Sand Dunes

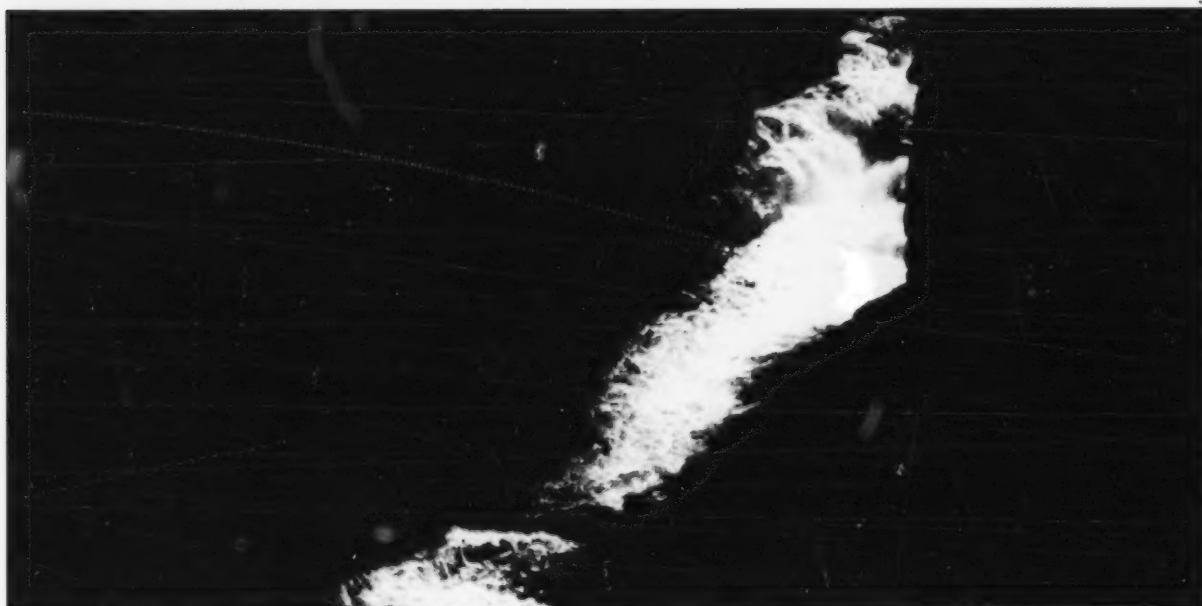


Fishing at Anglin Lake

The current long-range policy for provincial parks, *Saskatchewan Provincial Parks: Directions for the 21st Century*, was adopted in 1997.

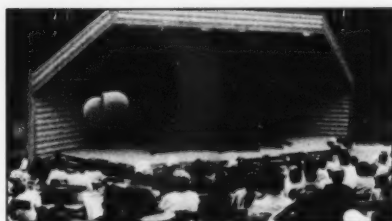
Since then, circumstances surrounding provincial park use and management have changed. Recognition of this change led the provincial government to consult widely on the future of our provincial parks with visitors, business operators and other interested parties during the summer of 2005.

They told us they place a high value on provincial parks. They see the provincial parks system as an inheritance they wish to pass on, ensuring our young people will also be able to enjoy provincial parks. They told us they support the mandate of access for enjoyment and education, plus protection and preservation of provincially significant ecosystems, landscapes and cultural resources. They want to ensure the diversity and expansiveness of today's system continues into the future. Ultimately, they are concerned with the condition of the provincial parks and their facilities and wish to see an investment in the system.



Clearwater River

The Provincial Parks System



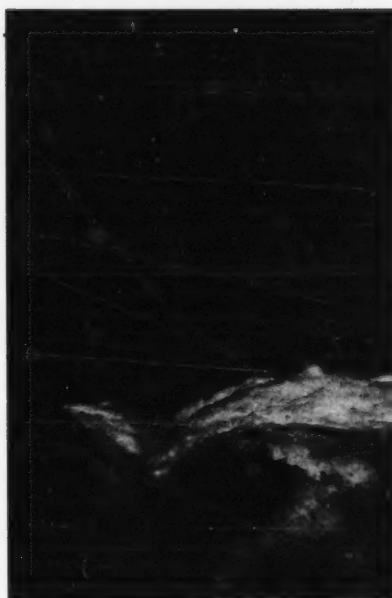
Amphitheatre at Cypress Hills



Beaching it at Duck Mountain



Pike Lake Interpretive Trail



Churchill River in Lac La Ronge

Starting with six parks in 1931, the Saskatchewan provincial parks system has grown to be one of the best in Canada. It protects vast natural areas, unique landscapes, scenic features, historic sites and access to outdoor recreation. Each park or recreation site provides an opportunity to experience a different part of Saskatchewan, including the solitude of the northern forest, the comfort of a modern resort and the experience of walking in the steps of those who came before us.

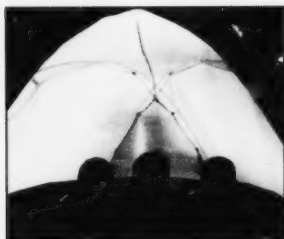
There are 196 park lands located throughout the province, comprising 1.4 million hectares. Classifications under *The Parks Act* outline different purposes for these lands:

- four wilderness parks: preserve expansive natural areas largely untouched by development (e.g. Athabasca Sand Dunes and Clearwater River)
- 11 natural environment parks: preserve and retain large areas in a natural state while providing intensive recreational services in a small area (e.g. Duck Mountain and Cypress Hills)
- 10 recreation parks: emphasize recreational opportunities; some also protect significant natural or cultural values (e.g. Echo Valley and Danielson)
- nine historic parks and eight historic sites: preserve and interpret sites associated with provincially significant historic events (e.g. Fort Carlton and Holy Trinity Anglican Church)
- 24 protected areas: preserve exceptional natural and cultural features (e.g. Nipekemew Sand Cliffs and Lemsford Ferry Tipi Rings)
- 130 recreation sites: most ensure public access to water bodies and to natural features for recreational pursuits; some also conserve significant natural and cultural features (e.g. Regina Beach, Bronson Forest and Parr Hill)

Our provincial parks provide diverse facilities such as campgrounds, beaches and beachfront bath/change rooms, boat launches, walking and cycling trails, snowmobile and cross-country ski trails, cottage subdivisions, rental accommodation, golf courses and interpretive/educational programs.

Provincial parks are part of a family of parks within Saskatchewan that includes seven urban parks, 100 regional parks, two national parks and four national historic sites.

Park Use



Camping at The Battlefords



*Paddle boating at
Greenwater Lake*



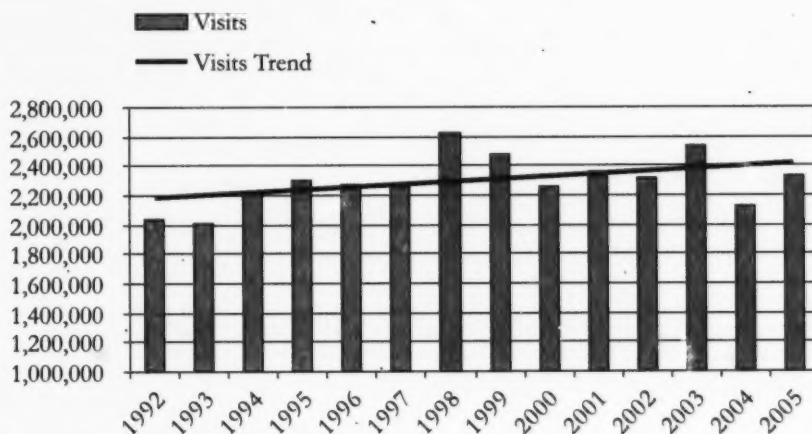
Sailing on Emma Lake



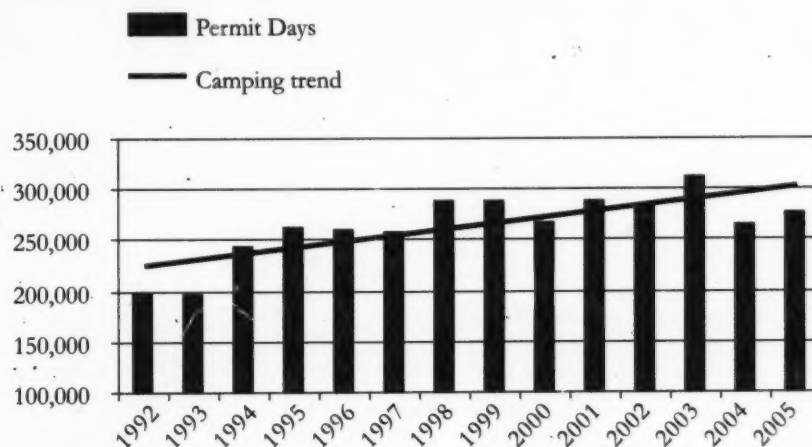
Golfing at Makwa Lake

The provincial parks system in Saskatchewan attracted 2.3 million visits in 2005, up 8 per cent since 1992. This included nearly 500,000 visits from out of province. Our visitors camped for 283,000 days in 2005, up 40 per cent since 1992.

Summer Visits 1992 to 2005 with Trend Line



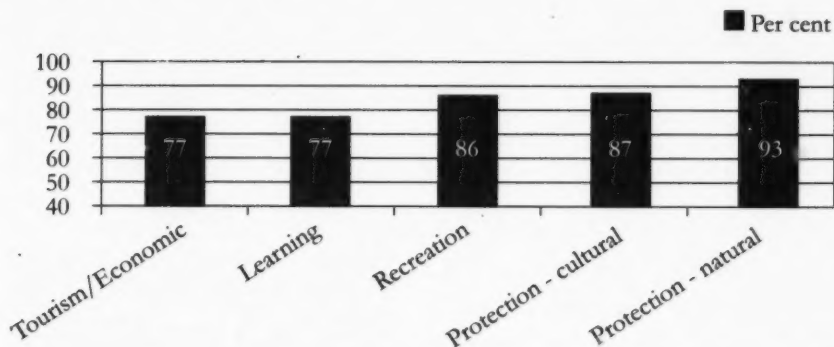
Camping Permit Days 1992 to 2005 with Trend Line



What the Public Said

- Protection/conservation is the most important purpose of park lands.

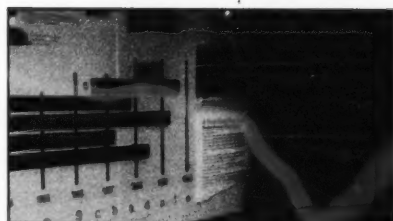
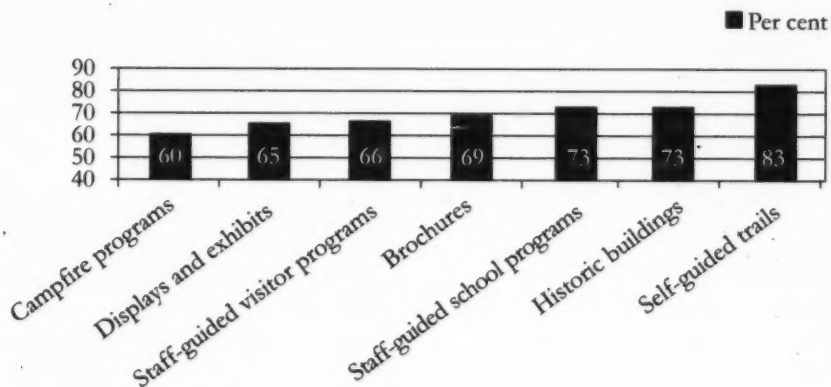
Per cent of people surveyed who rated important and extremely important



What the Public Said

- The most important educational facilities and services are: interpretive trails, historic buildings and guided school programs.

Per cent of people surveyed who rated as important and extremely important



Interpretive display at Danielson



Last Mountain House



Public Opinion

Input was obtained through a survey of

lessees and randomly selected citizens

attended by representatives of the

stakeholders, including First Nations

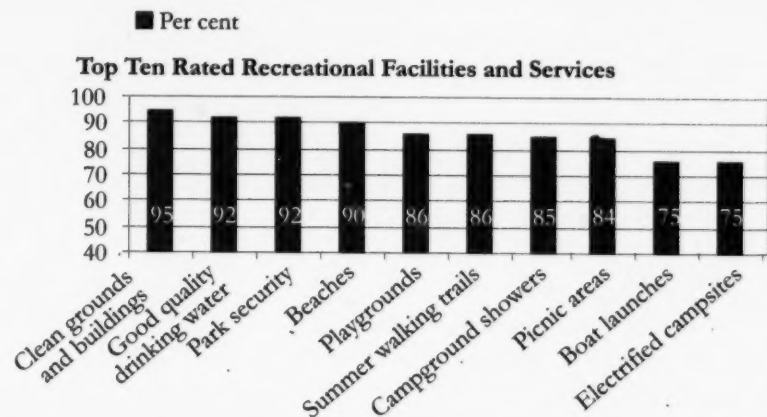
the Green Forum on Parks and Recreation



y that included all commercial
gers and campers, a workshop
major provincial park
s and commercial lessees, and
representative Areas.

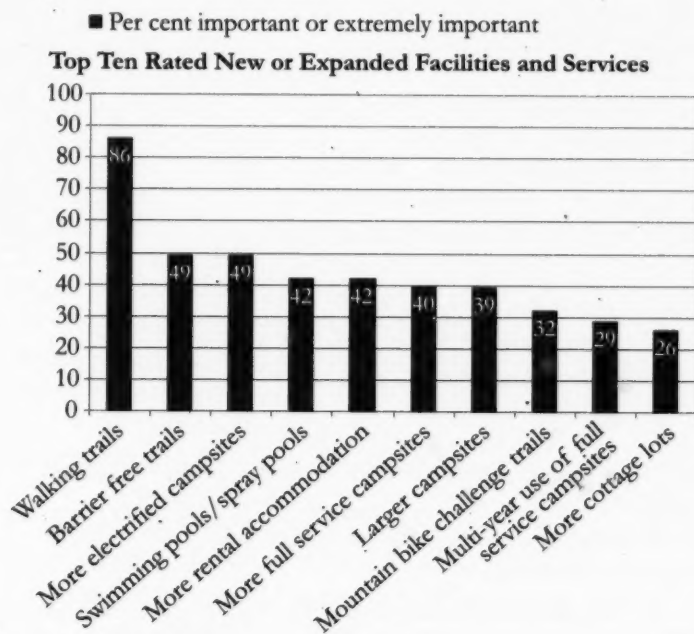
What the Public Said

- Clean buildings and grounds, quality drinking water, park security and good beaches are the most important recreational facilities and services.



What the Public Said

- 86% saw more walking trails as the most important new or expanded facilities.



What the Public Said

- 70% rated as important or extremely important that the parks become more "green".
- The most frequently mentioned actions were:
 - ▶ Water and energy conservation
 - ▶ Waste reduction
 - ▶ "Green" campgrounds and cottage subdivisions.



Framework for the Future

In this, the provincial parks' 75th anniversary, the Province of Saskatchewan is adopting a new strategic framework of vision, core values, guiding principles and strategic outcomes to ensure a parks legacy for future generations.

The Vision

A dynamic and diverse provincial parks system that pro-actively conserves representative and unique parts of Saskatchewan's natural and cultural heritage as an inheritance for present and future generations, while providing an array of opportunities for outdoor recreation, learning and personal renewal and inspiration. Provincial parks model green, environmentally sustainable practices and collaborative management while contributing to a vibrant, growing tourism industry.

Core Values

- protection of ecosystems and natural/cultural features and resources
- diverse recreational and learning opportunities
- clean, secure, accessible and affordable
- peace and serenity for personal renewal
- places for friends and family to meet and connect
- cornerstone for Saskatchewan tourism

Guiding Principles

- give precedence to conservation
- ensure public access to outdoor recreation
- model environmentally sustainable practices
- ensure opportunities for people to explore and learn
- respect Aboriginal and Treaty rights and different cultural perspectives
- public benefits take priority over private interests
- retain revenue generated by parks fees for use in the provincial parks system
- public involvement and collaboration
- Accountability

Strategic Outcomes

Conservation: Biodiversity, representative and unique ecosystems, and natural and cultural areas and resources are preserved within a system of provincial park lands as an inheritance for present and future generations.

Recreation: A variety of well utilized, environmentally sustainable, clean, secure and affordable recreational services and facilities that model green technology and are compatible with public needs are available for residents of and visitors to Saskatchewan.

Interpretation/Learning: People experiencing provincial park lands gain understanding of their relationship with the province's natural and cultural heritage and improve their stewardship of our heritage.

Green Sustainable Tourism: Provincial parks provide the base for a growing environmentally and culturally sustainable Saskatchewan tourism industry.

Collaborative Management: Private sector, communities, Aboriginal peoples, clients, and interest groups assist in the planning, management and operation of the provincial parks system.



Park Funding in 2006-07

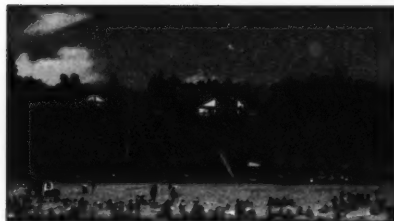
In 2006-07, the provincial government funding to help regenerate park facilities and to fund park greening initiatives will increase to approximately \$3 million. The total funding for our provincial parks is \$22.3 million, including \$12.3 million from the province (\$3 million in capital and \$9.3 million in operating) and \$10 million in park revenues.

As well, the urban parks will receive \$4 million to assist with operating costs. This includes new provincial funding to Weyburn and the Battlefords to help them continue development of new urban parks in their river valleys.

Next Steps

A comprehensive report on the 2005 public consultations is available. Saskatchewan Environment will conduct further consultation at the local park level during the summer of 2006. A detailed, long range plan will be released in 2007. It will be based on this strategic framework and the priority actions identified for each park during the 2006 consultations.

**For more information, visit our website at
www.saskparks.net**



Beach at Moose Mountain

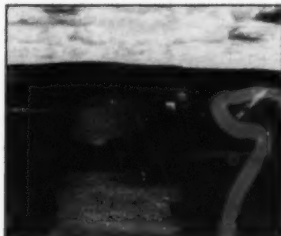


Meadow Lake beach

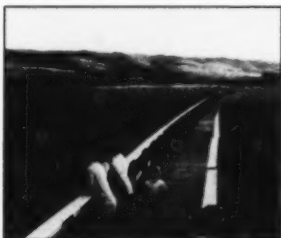


Camping at Narrow Hills

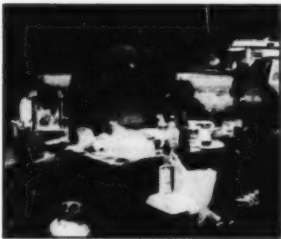
Saskatchewan Park Lands



Steele Narrows



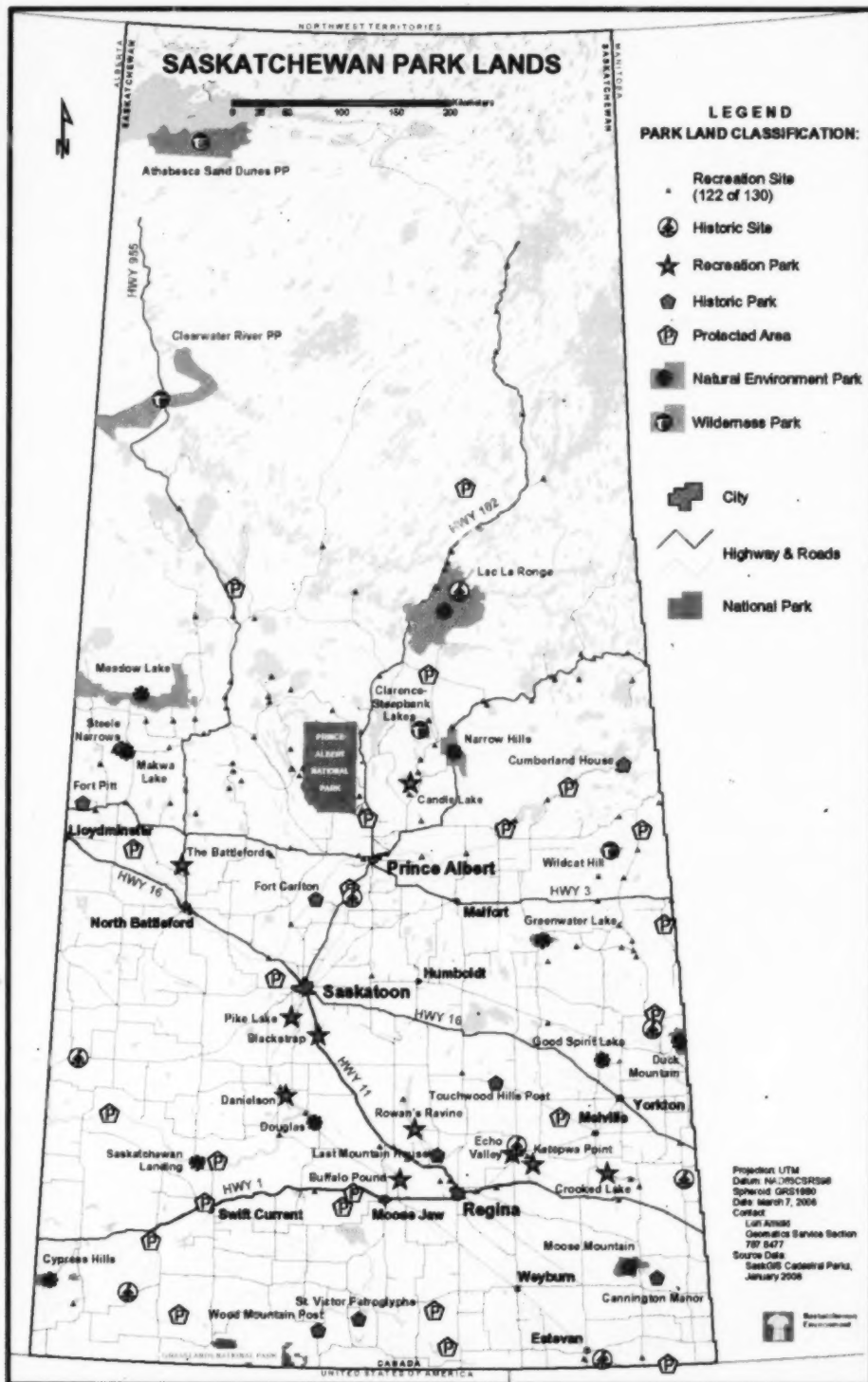
*Buffalo Pound
Marsh Boardwalk*



Camping at Good Spirit Lake



Cannington Manor



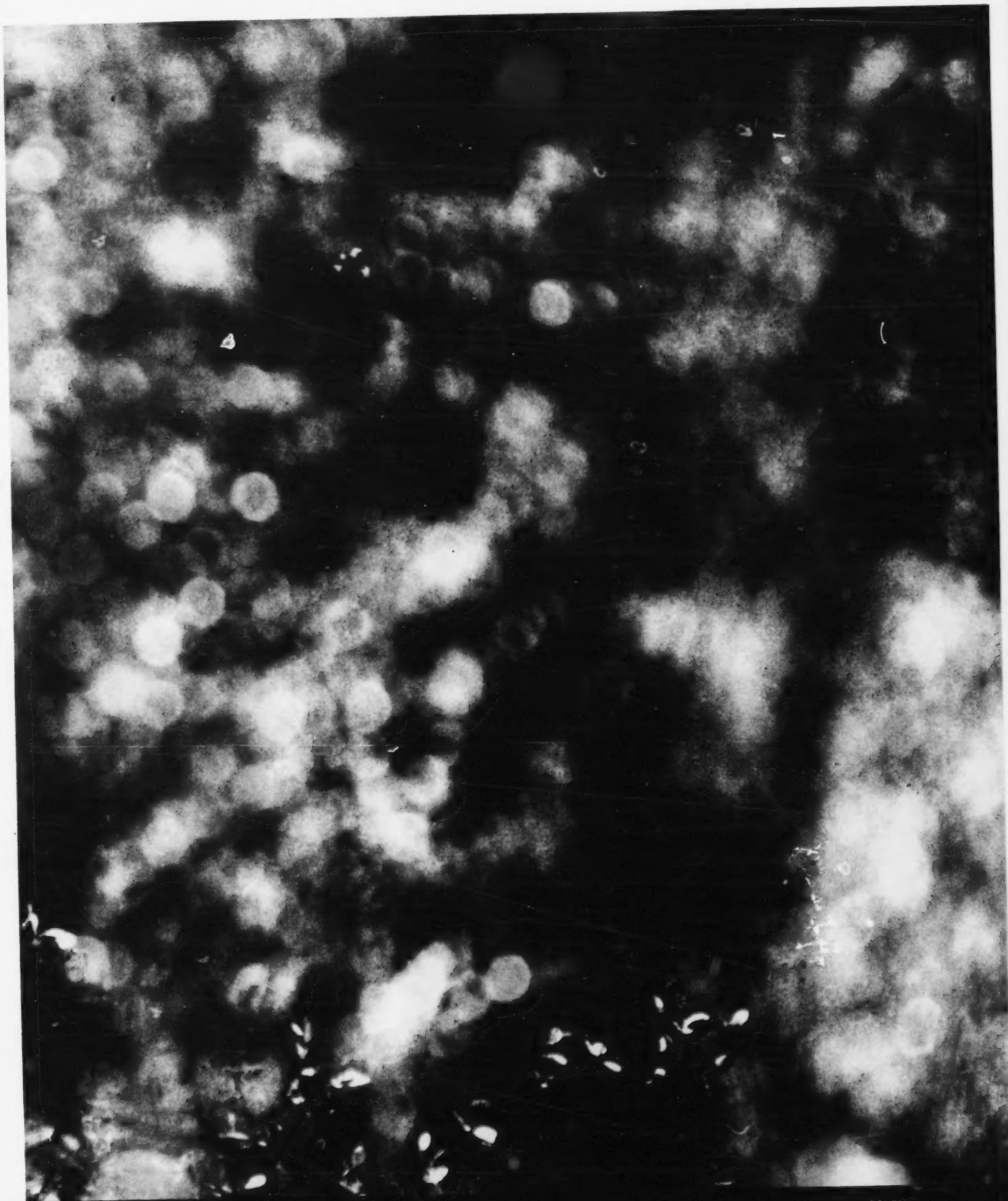


Join us this summer as we
celebrate 75 years of outdoor
experiences, learning
opportunities and natural
landscapes.

For information check out
www.saskparks.net
or call 1-800-205-7070



For park information go to
www.saskparks.net
and download a copy of the
2006 Parks Guide.



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